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Letter dated 20 December 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Chair
Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities

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Report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan) as Chair and the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama spelling from Consolidated List][bin Laden. The regime was modified in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and the travel ban are available. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted its resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which it split the regime in two, establishing one committee for Al-Qaida and the other for the Taliban (the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)). The sanctions measures against Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities were imposed in resolution 1989 (2011) and renewed in resolutions 2083 (2012), 2161 (2014), 2253 (2015) and 2368 (2017).

4. By its resolution 2368 (2017), adopted on 20 July 2017, the Security Council renewed the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo affecting all individuals and entities on the sanctions list for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or Da'esh) and Al-Qaida. In the same resolution, the Council extended the mandates of the Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson until 17 December 2021.

5. Both the above-mentioned committees are supported by the Monitoring Team. The Team had initially consisted of 8 experts, the number of experts was increased to 10 in resolution 2253 (2015).

6. Further background information on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met 14 times in informal consultations, on 3 February, 1 March, 11 April, 3 and 19 May, 12 June, 13 July, 7 August, 5 September, 10, 17 and 23 October, and on 8 and 22 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. The Committee also met twice in joint informal consultations with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), on 23 June and 8 December, and once with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, on 30 June.

9. During the informal consultations held on 3 February, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on her findings regarding a delisting request. The Committee also received a number of briefings by the Monitoring Team, including one pursuant to paragraph 96 of resolution 2253 (2015) on the Team's analysis of the global implementation of resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2178 (2014) and one on the Team's nineteenth report and recommendations, as well as two trip reports.

10. During the informal consultations held on 1 March, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on her findings regarding two delisting requests.

11. During the informal consultations held on 11 April, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on her findings regarding two delisting requests and the Monitoring Team presented two trip reports.

12. During the informal consultations held on 3 May, the Monitoring Team presented several trip reports to the Committee.

13. On 11 May, the Chair briefed the Security Council on the mandate and general work of the Committee alongside the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (see S/PV.7936).

14. During the informal consultations held on 19 May, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on her findings regarding a delisting request.

15. During the informal consultations held on 12 June, the Committee heard a briefing by the Monitoring Team pursuant to paragraph 96 of resolution 2253 (2015) on its analysis of the global implementation of resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2178 (2014). The Team also presented a trip report.

16. On 16 June, the Chair visited Moscow to participate in a meeting on "Transnational challenges and threats related to terrorist activities: realizing the potential of international organizations in countering terrorism", organized under the auspices of the secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

17. During the joint informal consultations with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) held on 23 June, the two Committees heard a briefing by the Head of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Anti-Terrorism Centre on the terrorist threat in the CIS region and how Governments were cooperating to combat the threat.

18. During the joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) held on 30 June, the Committees received a briefing from the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development on the threat of transnational terrorism in the region.

19. During the informal consultations held on 13 July, the Committee heard a briefing by the Ombudsperson on her findings regarding three delisting requests. The Ombudsperson also addressed the Committee regarding her departure and proposed transitional measures for its consideration.

20. During the informal consultations held on 7 August, the Committee heard a briefing by the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team regarding the Team's twentieth report and recommendations, submitted pursuant to paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution 2253 (2015). The Team also presented a trip report. In addition, the Committee received a briefing from the outgoing Ombudsperson on her proposal regarding the duties of the Legal Officer in support of the Office of the Ombudsperson during the transition period. The Ombudsperson also drew the attention of the

members of the Committee to the use of confidential information in cases considered by the Ombudsperson.

21. From 28 to 30 August, the Chair visited Malaysia and Singapore, pursuant to paragraph 92 of resolution 2368 (2017), for meetings with government officials.

22. During the informal consultations held on 5 September, the Chair briefed the members of the Committee on the matters pending in relation to the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Committee also heard a briefing by the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division on the status of the recruitment of a new Ombudsperson.

23. On 28 September, the Chair briefed the Security Council on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", alongside the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (see S/PV.8059).

24. During the informal consultations held on 10 October, the Chair provided a briefing on his visit to Malaysia and Singapore. The Committee also received a briefing by the Monitoring Team, pursuant to paragraph 99 of resolution 2368 (2017), on the impact assessment analysing the global implementation of resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2178 (2014). The Team also presented a trip report.

25. On 4 and 5 October, the Chair visited Krasnodar, Russian Federation, to participate in the sixteenth meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.

26. During the informal consultations held on 17 October, the Committee heard a briefing by the Governor and the Chief Compliance Officer of the Central Bank of Iraq on the efforts made by the country to freeze and block ISIL financing. In addition, the Monitoring Team presented a background paper on the misuse by ISIL and Al-Qaida of information and communications technologies and related sanctions issues and a trip report.

27. During the informal consultations held on 23 October, the Committee heard a briefing by the former Ombudsperson on her findings regarding two delisting requests and a briefing by European Union officials.

28. On 29 and 30 October, the Chair visited Afghanistan, pursuant to paragraph 92 of resolution 2368 (2017) and paragraph 55 of resolution 2255 (2015), for meetings with government officials. On 1 and 2 November, he visited Tashkent, pursuant to paragraph 92 of resolution 2368 (2017), to attend the fifth international scientific and practical conference on cooperation in combating international terrorism and extremism.

29. On 28 November, the Chair briefed the Security Council on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: foreign terrorist fighters" and on the overall work of the Committee (see S/PV.8116).

30. During the informal consultations held on 8 December, the Monitoring Team presented two trip reports to the Committee.

31. During the joint informal consultations with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) on 8 December, the Committees were briefed by the Chair on his visit to Afghanistan from 29 to 30 October 2017 and by a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the Global Container Control Programme implemented by UNODC and the World Customs Organization.

32. During the informal consultations on 22 December, the Monitoring Team presented two trip reports.

33. On 8 May and 17 October, pursuant to paragraph 87 of resolution 2253 (2015) and paragraph 46 of resolution 2368 (2017), the Chair held open briefings for

interested Member States with a view to raising awareness of the sanctions regime, enhancing transparency and improving the dialogue between the Committee and the broader United Nations membership. The Coordinator of the Monitoring Team also briefed Member States on the above-mentioned dates.

34. On 27 June, the Chair participated in a joint open briefing, together with the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, on "Challenges in countering terrorism in Libya". On the same day, the Chair also held a joint open briefing with the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) on "Challenges in countering terrorism in West Africa".

35. The Committee provided additional guidance to all Member States by issuing six notes verbales, sent on 3 and 23 January, 9 March, 26 April, 15 September and 11 October, on, respectively, the revision of the Committee's guidelines, the overview of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, the nineteenth report of the Monitoring Team, the holding of an open briefing on 8 May, the twentieth report of the Monitoring Team and the holding of an open briefing on 17 October.

36. The Committee sent 94 communications to 19 Member States and other stakeholders, 22 communications to the Ombudsperson and 8 communications to the focal point for delisting.

IV. Exemptions

37. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended in resolution 1735 (2006), paragraph 75 of resolution 2253 (2015) and paragraph 81 of resolution 2368 (2017).

38. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraphs 2 (b) and 10 of resolution 2253 (2015), paragraphs 1 (b) and 10 of resolution 2368 (2017) and section 12 of the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

39. Pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 76 of resolution 2253 (2015) and paragraphs 10 and 82 of resolution 2368 (2017), the focal point mechanism established in resolution 1730 (2006) may also receive requests for exemption from the asset freeze and the travel ban, submitted by or on behalf of an individual, group, undertaking or entity on the sanctions list, or by the legal representative or estate of such an individual, group, undertaking or entity, for the Committee's consideration.

40. The Committee received one request for exemption from the asset freeze, determined to be necessary for extraordinary expenses pursuant to paragraph 75 (b) of resolution 2253 (2015), as renewed in paragraph 81 (b) of resolution 2368 (2017), which was submitted for consideration by the Committee. The Committee did not receive any requests for exemption from the asset freeze through the focal point mechanism pursuant to paragraph 76 of resolution 2253 (2015), as renewed in paragraph 82 of resolution 2368 (2017). The Committee received a request for exemption from the travel ban pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 2253 (2015) and paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2368 (2017), through the focal point mechanism, which was not approved.

V. Sanctions list

41. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 2 to 4 of resolution 2368

(2017). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work, and standard forms for listing and delisting are available on the Committee's website.

42. Both the Committee and the Ombudsperson can receive delisting requests. During the reporting period, 12 individuals and five entities were listed. Thirteen individuals were delisted, of whom seven were delisted following the submission of a petition through the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Committee approved amendments to the existing entries of 18 individuals and three entities on its sanctions list.

43. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 255 individuals and 80 entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Monitoring Team

44. The Monitoring Team comprises 10 experts with broad government experience in international counter-terrorism issues.

45. On 6 January and 18 August, in accordance with paragraph (e) of annex I to resolution 2368 (2017), the Monitoring Team submitted two biannual programmes of work to the Committee for its information.

46. On 1 February, the Monitoring Team provided the Committee with its contribution to the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to paragraph 70 of General Assembly resolution 70/291. On 28 August, the Team also provided the Committee with its contribution to the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to paragraph 22 of resolution 2347 (2017).

47. On 30 June, in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution 2253 (2015), the Monitoring Team provided its twentieth report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 7 August and issued as a document of the Council (S/2017/573). On 29 December, the Team provided its twenty-first report to the Committee, in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution 2368 (2017).

48. In January and May, the Monitoring Team contributed the threat assessment to the reports of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 97 of resolution 2253 (2015) (S/2017/97 and S/2017/467).

49. During the informal consultations held on 3 February, 12 June and 10 October pursuant to paragraph 96 of resolution 2253 (2015) and paragraph 99 of resolution 2368 (2017), the Monitoring Team briefed the Committee on its analysis of the global implementation of resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2178 (2014), including gathered information and analysis relevant to potential sanctions designations by Member States or Committee action that could be taken. The Team also briefed the Committee on its trips to Member States, as it also did on 11 April, 3 May, 7 August, 17 October, 8 and 22 December.

50. The Monitoring Team conducted country visits to more than 20 Member States and participated in more than 60 regional and international conferences and other meetings. The Team also organized five regional forums for security and intelligence services, in Austria, Indonesia, Kenya, Sweden and Togo.

51. The Monitoring Team attended the eighty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), held in China, and the sixteenth Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations, held in the Russian Federation. The Team participated in the International Civil Aviation Organization symposium on the Traveller

Identification Programme and the meeting of the Facilitation Panel, held in Canada. The Team also participated in the aviation security conference of the International Air Transport Association, held in the United Arab Emirates, and in the anti-terrorism conference organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

62. In December, the Monitoring Team held meetings with incoming members of the Security Council in order to raise awareness of the Team's mandate and work.

63. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent 604 letters to Member States, regional and international organizations, national entities and the Committee.

VII. Ombudsperson

64. The Office of the Ombudsperson submitted 9 comprehensive reports to the Committee and presented 11 oral reports to the Committee. The Committee took a decision in 11 cases, resulting in the delisting of seven individuals and the retention of four individuals on the sanctions list. The Ombudsperson travelled to Algeria, Bahrain, Germany and Kuwait to interview six petitioners. Access to one petitioner was denied by the State of residence, and his counsel answered questions instead, in person in New York, United States of America.

65. The Ombudsperson submitted periodic reports to the Security Council on 24 January (S/2017/60) and 7 August 2017 (S/2017/685).

66. Ms. Marchi-Uhel left her functions as Ombudsperson on 8 August 2017 following her appointment by the Secretary-General as the Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. Her successor has not yet been appointed.

VIII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

67. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

68. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 11 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership in the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 17 August 2017 notifying them of upcoming vacancies in the Monitoring Team and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. Regarding the recruitment process for the new Ombudsperson, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 24 July to request the nomination of suitable candidates for the position.

69. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and providing technical assistance during the preparation of the Team's twentieth (S/2017/573) and twenty-first reports in June and December, respectively.

60. The Monitoring Team participated in the fifth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 5 and 6 December, organized by the Secretariat.

61. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the Committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the creation of links within list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as well as the development in English of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 48 of resolution 2253 (2015).

62. On 15 December, the Secretariat informed the Committee of the completion of the re[illegible]cturing of the Secretariat to enhance its support to the Monitoring Team, in accordance with paragraph 94 of resolution 2368 (2017).